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SCORES ORGANIZATION OF MIXED BRIGADE;
PLANTS EXTEND COLLABORATION WITH SCIENTISTS

BLAME CHIEF ENGINEER FOR FAILURE -- Sovetskaya Latviya, No 110, 10 May 50

The Riga VEF Plant has set up in a conspicuous place in the condenser shop a special panel fitted with red and green lights for signaling infringements of the hourly schedule or any troubles which arise in the work of the complex "through" brigade/a brigade made up of members of different sections/. The green light indicates that everything is progressing smoothly; if a disturbance occurs in any part of the brigade, a red light flashes in the corresponding section of the panel.

During the 4 months of the brigade's existence, the red light has burned almost constantly. The workers are nervous, and feel that the mixed brigade is an impossible arrangement. Nothing is being done to correct the situation. Certain shop chiefs and the chief of the production department are blamed for the difficulties, whereas the real offender is Chief Engineer Khubayev, who signed the order for formation of the brigade on 5 January.

The brigade has never been properly organized. Furthermore, it is composed of three parts, one of which works in the condenser shop; the other two are in the stamping and lacquering shops. They work for different supervisors, and their interrelationship is purely a formal one. -- T. Inskaya

DISCUSS METHODS OF QUALITY CONTROL -- Sovetskaya Latviya, No 111, 11 May 50

A meeting of the Institute of Power-Engineering and Machine Building of the Academy of Sciences Latvian SSR was held 8 May at the Riga VEF Electrical Engineering Plant. The session was devoted to discussion of the use of statistical methods for quality control of items produced. The chief of the Department of Technical Control at the VEF Plant gave statistics on defective goods at that plant.

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An engineer from the REZ Figas Electric-Machine Building? Plant reported on his experience with graphic methods of determining quality.

Most of the reports given, such as "Anomalous Distributions and Their Use in Quality Control" and "The Use of Statistical Methods for Controlling the Quality of Items in the Mass Production of Telephone Apparatus," were too general and theoretical. Little attention was given to practical application of the principles discussed. An exception was a report by an engineer from the VEF Plant, which was concrete and had a close bearing on practical production methods. -- G. Maza

PLANT TECHNICAL COUNCILS ASSIST PRODUCERS -- Leningradskaya Pravda, No 111, 11 May 50

Plant technical councils are playing an increasingly large role in the development of new techniques. Outstanding examples of collaboration between scientists and producers through technical councils are the Leningrad Plants imeni Stalin, Sevkabel', and Elektrik.

The scientific-technical council of the Plant imeni Stalin is collaborating with the Polytechnic Institute imeni M. I. Kalinin, the Engineering Institute imeni Lensovet, and others on basic problems of turbine building and high-speed cutting.

Representatives of many scientific institutes are working on the technical council of the Sevkabel' Plant, to discuss important technical problems with the plant engineers, technicians, and innovators.

A great many specialists from the Electrical Engineering Institute imeni V. I. Ul'yanov are working with the council of the Elektrik Plant to solve problems connected with the development of high-duty welding machines.

Similar councils are in operation at the Linotip and Kinap plants and the Plant imeni Lenin. The chief failing of such councils, particularly at the Krasnaya Vagranka and Russkiy Dizel' plants, is their lack of purpose and systematic planning. They discuss technology, standardization, economy of materials, and substitute materials, but give insufficient attention to actual quality of output. Every council should discuss ways for reducing the percentage of defective goods, and methods of testing materials. Attention should also be given to the use of spectrum analysis, statistical methods of control, roentgenoscopy, and ultrasonic detection of defects.

COLLABORATION AIDS TECHNICAL PROGRESS -- Ogonek, No 15, Apr 50

One of the most progressive of the Leningrad enterprises is the Elektrosila Plant imeni S. M. Kirov.

The plant recently produced a hydrogenerator for the Dnepr Hydroelectric Station. Instead of duplicating the prewar type, the plant greatly increased the capacity of the hydrogenerator without increasing its size. Engineers developed a step bearing of original design for supporting all the moving parts of the 1,000-ton machine.

When testing of the Leningrad hydrogenerator was completed at the Dnepr Hydroelectric Station, the engineers could not help but recall how disturbed they had been at the starting of the American machines. Much time was lost in remodeling and adjusting the step bearings, which were of unsatisfactory design. At the station it was noted with pride that the Soviet design was victorious in the technical competition between the two countries.

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The plant is utilizing and further developing the foremost scientific achievements. On the one hand, scientists consider it an honor to work in the plant in the capacity of ordinary engineers; on the other, there is an increasing number of stakhanovites who, in respect to level of work and experience, can be called engineers. Their collaboration is of great value.

One worker, a member of the technical council of the plant, is making the most complicated gauges by machine. This work has always been done by hand. He was asked to report on his methods at a council meeting. A worker from the Kirov Plant, author of a textbook on gauges, was also invited. The collaboration between workers and scientists is producing extraordinary results.

One plant scientific-technical conference, called by the Party organization, almost turned into an all-Union conference. It was attended by 200 scientists representing 48 scientific institutes. At present, about 40 contracts have been concluded with these institutes.

The Engineering-Economic Institute imeni Molotov is working on the improvement of organization and planning of production in two shops. Prof V. M. Andreyev of the Technological Institute is helping the smelters develop a cupola, and members of the Polytechnic Institute are studying the problem of high-speed cutting. The chief of the laboratory of the Boiler and Turbine Institute imeni Polzunov was on hand at the testing of a turbogenerator unit. Lectures are given by visiting professors, and stakhanovite schools, seminars, and training courses are conducted. Such collaboration is one of the plant's greatest achievements in technical progress. -- V. Aleksandrov

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